State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
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dnr.wi.gov

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Trout Committee
Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/27/2018	1900 hours	Teleconference

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Chair D. Vanden Bloomen at 1900 hours

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Todd Podlesny, Robert Traczyk, Jacob Macholl, Roger Roehle, Nathanael Brown, Dale Ebert, George Korn, Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Scott Sinz, Maurice Amundson, Scott Pitta, Dave Ninneman, Robert Haase, James Wierzba, Brad Martinson, David Barron, Martin Sands, John Rennpferd,
EXCUSED	Brock Rosekranz
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Joanna Griffin (DNR Lison), Matt Mitro (DNR Liason),

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	No changes to agenda
ACTION	Accepted agenda

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair asked if there were any additions or comments to the Committee Mission Statement.
ACTION	no changes suggested

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	no public comments
ACTION	no action needed

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution 64-05-18 Eliminate the October Trout Season in streams north of Highway 64 — Author Ken Anderson unable to attend.

DISCUSSION	Resolution 640518 was read. Discussion of the resolution began. Jim Wierzba knows the author and represented his position. Fishing trout close to and or during the fall spawn places the resource at risk. Joanne Griffin noted there was no documentation suggesting the current open fall season had any negative impact on the trout. They usually spawn after the season is closed. Griffin continued--The main concern prompting this resolution seems to be concern for impacting spawning trout in the fall. While it is true that some brook trout spawning may be occurring during this late season, the peak of spawn likely occurs after the season is closed. In addition, we do not think, nor do we have any data or information to suggest, that potential harvest and fishing (wading, etc.) during the fall season has had or will have any significant effect on brook trout or brown trout spawning and population abundance. Spring flooding and other habitat and environmental factors are much more important factors influencing recruitment in Wisconsin streams. Griffin comments continued--in the 2014 spring hearings, we asked if we should extend the open trout fishing season to October 15th. This was supported statewide by 3112 (yes) vs. 1746 (no). In 2015, the proposed trout seasons were supported statewide by 2260 (yes) vs. 1222 (no) and in Vilas County by 38 (yes) vs. 24 (no). The extended season has been in effect for two seasons. To date, the DNR has not received complaints or comments of concern related to allowing harvest during the October 1-15 period, except for this proposed resolution and the similar one from last year. Spawning may begin in late September or early October, but peak spawning is in late October and early November. For example, in the Hay River (north of HWY 64) brook trout spawn between October 20th and November 20th with a peak around November 8th. In Timber Coulee Creek brown trout spawn between October 15th and November 15th with a peak around November 4th

	Roger Roehl noted 2 items: micro-management is something we want to avoid. The Northern fish biologists agreed with the later open season. Dave Barron was against micromanagement of streams. John Rennpferd noted the late open season conflicted with other fall hunting activities. Dale Ebert observed the Popple in Forest County was open until 11/15. The Peshtigo in Forest County is open until 11/15.
ACTION	Motion to reject resolution 640518 by David Barron and Jacob Macholl. Roll call vote was taken. Vote to reject passed. Vote was unanimous.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair sends letter informing authors of committee decision.	10 September 2018

B. DNR Trout Committee Update — Joanna Griffin (DNR)

DISCUSSION	Joanna Griffin mentioned there are 50 stakeholders on the NDR trout committee. There are WCC delegates from each geographic area of the state. Lake trout stakeholders were added. The trout plan is in process, with internal review ongoing and future public review in Jan of 2019. Plan to be presented to in April of 2019. Roger Springman and his ideas about future funding for trout was duly noted by the DNR. A variety of comments about the trout plan were collected by the DNR but not all can be acted on. Changes in funding are outside the purview of the DNR. 86 pieces of heavy equipment were disposed of. The remaining were kept. Instead of "in-house only" collaboration with other user groups will be explored. Details to be shared electronically.
ACTION	Follow up with DNR Trout Committee

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair to keep WCC Trout Committee updated.	

C. Update on Gill Lice Research/Issues in WI — Matthew Mitro

DISCUSSION	report from last year was updated with 2017 data, peer-reviewed, and accepted for publication in the Journal of Parasitology. The paper is titled, "Distribution, prevalence, and maximum intensity of the ectoparasitic copepod Salmincola cf. edwardsii in brook trout in Wisconsin streams." Here is the abstract for the paper: Abstract: Since the late 19th century the ectoparasitic copepod Salmincola cf. edwardsii have been observed infecting brook trout Salvelinus fontinalis in Wisconsin streams. A perceived increase in the incidence of S.cf. edwardsii infection across the state and the observation of an S. edwardsii epizootic leading to declines in brook trout recruitment in Ash Creek, Wisconsin, have raised concerns about the extent to which S. edwardsii threaten other populations of brook trout in Wisconsin streams. In 2013-2017, brook trout were inspected in 282 streams across the state to determine the distribution, prevalence, and maximum intensity of infection of adult female copepods whose morphology was consistent with S. edwardsii.Salmincola cf. edwardsii were present in 79% of streams and absent from 21%. Prevalence of infection ranged from 0.4% to 100% where the parasite was present. Maximum intensity of infection was low (1-5 S.cf. edwardsii) in 31% of streams, moderate (6-14) in 35%, and high (³15) in 34%. Maximum intensity was high and prevalence exceeded 90% of brook trout in 9 streams, which suggests epizootics as observed in Ash Creek are uncommon. Our statewide distributional data is critical to understanding the scope of S. cf.edwardsii infection of brook trout in Wisconsin's recreational fisheries and will provide a baseline for ongoing and future investigations of S. cf. edwardsii-brook trout dynamics. --Short-term work on gill lice and brook trout this summer included (1) prevalence and mean intensity of infection for Lawrence Creek brook trout, (2) prevalence and mean intensity of infection for Ash Creek age 0 (young-of-year) brook trout in July, (3) gill lice (Salmincola edwardsii) fecundity counts for samples from five streams, and (4) cage

	study in Ash Creek to study short-term infection dynamics of naïve hatchery brook trout exposed to Salmincola edwardsii larvae. The cage study in Ash Creek also includes naïve hatchery brook trout stocked directly into the stream to determine if there is a cage effect on infection. Results of this study will be useful for designing future studies evaluating different genetic strains of brook trout for susceptibility to gill lice infection. --Continuation of brook trout age and growth studies in streams across the state. Known-age brook trout (age 1 in spring) tagged with coded wire tags and older brook trout tagged with PIT tags. Known-age trout will be used to validate otoliths and fin rays for age determination and PIT-tagged trout will be used to quantify seasonal or annual growth in a variety of stream types. --A new study on beaver and trout interactions started in the new fiscal year beginning July 2018. This study will address research recommendations in the 2015 WDNR Beaver Management Plan and will include study sites in beaver management zones A, B, and C. Two study approaches will include (1) allowing beaver to recolonize streams currently maintained under free-flowing conditions and (2) establishing free-flowing conditions in currently colonized streams. We are currently continuing work on site selection. --Collaborative work with Dr. Wes Larson, UW-Stevens Point, includes (1) evaluating the major histocompatibility complex portion of the brook trout genome in relation to gill lice prevalence of infection in samples from six brook trout populations (this project is finishing soon) and (2) evaluating reproductive contributions of stocked F1, F2, and domestic origin brook trout stocked in Wisconsin streams (this project is starting this fall). Jim Wierbzsa asked about trout mortality from gill lice. High intensity affects the young of the year trout. This takes place in a few streams. Angler impact of spread of gill lice is minimal. Do not more fish from stream to stream. Lice do not stick to waders. If a heavily infected fish is caught, remove fish from stream, if legal. Genetic studies of trout are ongoing and a new study begins this fall. Researchers have a much better representative sample group of trout genetics from across the state. Outside of the drift less area, most trout are wild.
ACTION	

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair to distribute update from Matt Mitro	

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Maurice Amundson. What about the April opener ?? Joanne Griffin reports the early opener will not be advanced by the department. After the plan passes, it can be reviewed. Bob Haase has concerns about wild parsnip in wetlands. They seem to be spreading and need greater attention. More control is needed. Invaisive plant species are included in the trout plan (Joanne Griffin).
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	**Motion to adjourn by Dave Nineman and SB Bob Haase. Motion carried. 2110 hours**
SUBMITTED BY	**Scott Pitta**
DATE	**09/07/2018**